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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 HELD:

6 Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

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8 LOCATION:

9 Council Chambers

10 Scranton City Hall

11 340 North Washington Avenue

12 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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24 Elizabeth V. Kedrick, RPR - Official Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

2 JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

3 PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

4 WAYNE EVANS

5 WILLIAM GAUGHAN

6 TIM PERRY

7

8 LORI REED, CITY CLERK

9 CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

10 AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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1 MR. WECHSLER: Please stand for the

2 Pledge of Allegiance.

3 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

4 MR. WECHSLER: Please remain

5 standing for a moment of silent reflection

6 for our service men and women throughout the

7 world. And, also for those who have passed

8 away in our community.

9 (Moment of silence held.)

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Roll

11 call, please?

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry?

13 MR. PERRY: Here.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

15 MR. ROGAN: Here.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

17 MR. EVANS: Here.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

21 MR. WECHSLER: Here. There was an

22 executive session held this evening to

23 discuss a matter of litigation. Dispense

24 with the reading of the minutes.

25 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3A.

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1 UPDATED TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING

2 DATE TO BE HELD JUNE 21, 2017.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

4 comments? If not, received and filed.

5 MS. REED: 3B. MINUTES OF THE

6 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON

7 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD MAY 1, 2017.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

9 comments? If not, received and filed. Do

10 any council members have announcements at

11 this time? On Wednesday, June 21st at 6

12 p.m., PEL, the city's Action 47 Recovery

13 Coordinator will hold a public hearing at

14 City Hall in Council Chambers on PEL's three

15 year exit plan for the city to eliminate the

16 financially distressed state designation.

17 We encourage city residents to attend PEL's

18 public hearing. The Mayor will hold a town

19 hall meeting to explain the sewer sale next

20 Thursday, June 22nd at Lackawanna College's

21 auditorium on Vine Street from 5 to 7 p.m.

22 We urge all city residents to attend.

23 Council's regular weekly meeting scheduled

24 for the same evening, Thursday June 22, will

25 be cancelled. It is important for council

1 to attend the Mayor's town hall meeting,
 2 therefore we will not meet until the
 3 following week, June 29th. We did look at
 4 the schedule and attempt to reschedule the
 5 meeting, but Wednesday night as previously
 6 mentioned was being taken up by the PEL
 7 hearing. So there wasn't another
 8 opportunity for us to reschedule the
 9 meeting. The electronic recycling program
 10 is ongoing and will continue through June
 11 26th. Your items should be placed outside
 12 on the curb for the DPW to collect. Each
 13 household will be allowed one television and
 14 one computer monitor. Please be aware that
 15 the pick up of these items may occur at any
 16 time and not necessarily on your scheduled
 17 garbage day. If you have not had your items
 18 picked up and they've been out since Monday,
 19 please call the DPW dispatcher at
 20 570-348-4178.

21 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. CITIZENS
 22 PARTICIPATION.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Gerard Hetman?

24 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, council,
 25 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County

1 Commissioners Office. To begin this
 2 evening, our Farmers Market Nutritional
 3 Voucher Program for seniors is now available
 4 and will run over the next several weeks
 5 with our distribution schedule. This is a
 6 project that is in collaboration between the
 7 Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging and
 8 the Pennsylvania State Department of
 9 Agriculture. The vouchers are distributed
 10 on a first come first serve basis at senior
 11 centers and other select locations around
 12 Lackawanna County. The dates for
 13 distribution in the City of Scranton are as
 14 follows: Monday, June 26th, at the West
 15 Scranton Senior Center 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 16 Wednesday, July 12th, at the Jewish
 17 Community Center 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. And
 18 Thursday, July 13th, at the marketplace at
 19 Steamtown, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Seniors must
 20 provide proof of age and address, a driver's
 21 license would suffice for both. They could
 22 also use a birth certificate for age and
 23 also a utility bill for address. Medicare
 24 cards, we should note, are not acceptable
 25 under the state guidelines. The guidelines

1 are, they must be 60 years of age or older
 2 for recipients by December 31st of this
 3 year. Recipients must also meet federal
 4 income guidelines of \$22,311 in annual
 5 income for a single payer household.
 6 \$30,044 for a married couple. And \$37,777
 7 for a three person household. Proxy forms
 8 are available for eligible seniors who
 9 cannot pick up vouchers on their own. But
 10 the forms are available at all senior
 11 centers, the Lackawanna County Area Aging
 12 Office in the county administration building
 13 and also online at www.LackawannaCounty.org.
 14 They actually have a sample form that we'll
 15 leave with council's office so if anyone
 16 contacts you, you'll have a copy also and
 17 you can send them or give them or make a
 18 copy. If there are any questions on the
 19 program, please contact the Lackawanna
 20 County Area Agency on Aging at 570-963-6740.
 21 Second, our Senior Fun Day event, our second
 22 annual Senior Fun Day takes place tomorrow,
 23 Friday June 16th. The event is set from 10
 24 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McDade Park in Pavilion 1.
 25 It is a rain or shine event. So we'll be

1 under the Pavilion with everything in case
 2 of inclement weather. There are free
 3 activities for seniors including music and
 4 dancing, refreshments, Bingo games with
 5 prizes, and free runs on the Lackawanna
 6 County Coal Mine Tour. And I should note, a
 7 very important part of this. If you attend
 8 the event, you may or may not see certain
 9 county commissioners break out some of their
 10 dance moves to the music that we have. That
 11 alone is worth attending this event for, if
 12 you can make it, I assure you. Come one,
 13 come all to that. We don't check ages or
 14 anything at the door. It's just geared
 15 towards seniors. So anyone that considers
 16 themselves a senior citizen and the guests
 17 accompanying them are more than welcome.
 18 Third, our Family Fun Day series once again
 19 is set for our county parks. This is kind
 20 of an open house that we have in the park.
 21 It's very similar to the Senior Fun Day. We
 22 just gear it a little bit younger in terms
 23 of the music, the prizes that we have. And
 24 also, we have face painting which we learned
 25 is very popular for kids and families that

1 attend these events. The dates are June
 2 24th at McDade Park. July 15th at Merli
 3 Sarnoski Park. July 22nd at Covington Park.
 4 And August 5th for Aylesworth Park, 11 a.m.
 5 to 2 p.m. for each of those dates. The
 6 McDade date we should note next Saturday is
 7 also combined with our Bike Safety Fair
 8 Event. We had to postpone that last month
 9 due to inclement weather. So we'll have
 10 free bike helmets and bike safety lessons
 11 for all children in attendance at the McDade
 12 Park date. And last but not least, our 3 on
 13 3 basketball tournament was opened for
 14 registration. It will be held downtown once
 15 again, our sixth straight we're doing that
 16 on the 100 to 200 block off Wyoming Avenue.
 17 The dates are July 28th and July 29th,
 18 Friday and Saturday. Sunday the 30th is a
 19 rain date if we have to push the tournament
 20 back due to inclement weather on the first
 21 two days. We have teams from Grade 3 up to
 22 the adult open divisions, minimum of 3
 23 players, maximum of 5. Cost is \$90 per team
 24 for a student aged team. The adult open
 25 division is \$110. And for info or to

1 register, call 570-963-6743 or just visit
 2 LackawannaCounty.org. And that's all we
 3 have. Last but not least, we would just
 4 like to thank everyone who is participating
 5 in the electronics recycling program. We
 6 appreciate council, the Mayor's Office and
 7 everyone on the city's end especially the
 8 DPW for working with us to make this a
 9 success. A lot of them we'll see out on the
 10 curb. In my neighborhood, there's a lot of
 11 folks that have TVs and monitors out. We
 12 appreciate the cooperation. Thank you.
 13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Joan
 14 Hodawanitz?
 15 MS. HODAWANITZ: Joan Hodawanitz,
 16 city resident and taxpayer. Today is June
 17 15th, 15 days from the date the audit is
 18 supposed to be completed. Do we have any
 19 status on whether it's moving on down the
 20 road?
 21 MR. EVANS: I was told it's still
 22 expected to be completed by June 30th.
 23 MS. HODAWANITZ: Okay, that's good.
 24 And we're 145 days from the general election
 25 on November 7th. Do we have any feedback on

1 how the Arcadis study is progressing and
 2 when that might be completed?
 3 MR. GAUGHAN: I did get an update
 4 from the business administrator. And
 5 Arcadis is having trouble apparently getting
 6 information from the sewer authority.
 7 MS. HODAWANITZ: Oh don't say that.
 8 Say that's not so.
 9 MR. GAUGHAN: And the
 10 administration. So, it's going from the
 11 notes that I received and I can't recall
 12 everything that was in the email. But from
 13 the notes that I received are, it's moving
 14 at a slower pace than they had originally
 15 anticipated.
 16 MS. HODAWANITZ: I'm sorry, but I've
 17 just got to laugh. So they're having
 18 trouble getting information from the sewer
 19 authority board.
 20 MR. GAUGHAN: I shouldn't say--
 21 MS. HODAWANITZ: And the city?
 22 MR. GAUGHAN: That's what my
 23 recollection is from the notes, it's moving
 24 slower than they had anticipated.
 25 MS. HODAWANITZ: It should be

1 completed shortly after the election?
 2 MR. GAUGHAN: That, I don't know.
 3 MS. HODAWANITZ: We'll see.
 4 Speaking of surprises, I got the May
 5 controller's report today. And I see in
 6 here a couple of things. Number one,
 7 there's a refund from Knowles Insurance
 8 Company for \$3,950 for some--that occurred
 9 sometime in May. So, thinking of Knowles,
 10 can you tell me the status of their updated
 11 list of insured properties for the city?
 12 Anybody know?
 13 MR. EVANS: No.
 14 MS. HODAWANITZ: Remember, it's
 15 supposed to be three weeks and today was the
 16 third week. And it's been two and a half
 17 months since we passed that resolution to
 18 give Knowles the contract. And are we still
 19 insuring the Scranton Public Library by two
 20 different entities?
 21 MR. EVANS: I was told not, but we
 22 haven't had the final report yet. So we
 23 certainly know about that.
 24 MS. HODAWANITZ: Do they still
 25 intend to share with the public their

1 corrected list?

2 MR. EVANS: Certainly, yes.

3 MS. HODAWANITZ: Okay, we have no
4 idea when though.

5 MR. EVANS: Well, again, you were
6 told what I was told.

7 MR. WECHSLER: The way I understand,
8 it's supposed to be quarterly. It's just
9 like your declaration sheet with your
10 insurance policy that changes when you make
11 changes to it. So it sounds like every
12 quarter there's going to be a new dec page.

13 MS. HODAWANITZ: Well, they
14 shouldn't have been carrying the Scranton
15 Public Library for 7 years. That's a little
16 outrageous. Okay, then, how about the
17 status of the RFP for the third party
18 administrator? Any progress on that?

19 MR. EVANS: Not that I'm aware of,
20 no.

21 MR. WECHSLER: No.

22 MS. HODAWANITZ: Okie dokie. Oh and
23 by the way, in case you were wondering, the
24 Mayor said he would have a third party
25 administrator on March 18th, 2016 and that

1 was 454 days ago. I'm counting. Okay, how
2 about the status of your request to the
3 Commonwealth's Attorney General to look into
4 the sewer authority sale?

5 MR. WECHSLER: We have not had a
6 response yet.

7 MS. HODAWANITZ: Okie dokie. And
8 finally, also on the controller's report is
9 a payment of turn key taxes for \$8,530.90.
10 So what are we getting for our money from
11 them?

12 MR. EVANS: Turn key is any
13 percentage of money they collect over and
14 above what was collected by the single tax
15 office for the business privilege and
16 mercantile tax. So that's a percentage for
17 what they collected. So I think they get a
18 percent. So we'll have to do the math.
19 We'll find on out what the amount is that
20 they collected in order to get that
21 commission.

22 MS. HODAWANITZ: Okay, alright,
23 that's all I have. Thank you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus?

25 MS. FRANUS: Yes, I want to talk

1 about the town hall meetings next week.

2 First, I'd like to start off by saying I
3 think this council has a lot of guilt in
4 this. Had you asked the right questions way
5 back then when you met with the sewer
6 authority before you voted on this and got
7 the answers to all these questions that
8 you're looking for now, I want the Attorney
9 General to look for it. If you had asked
10 those questions in the first place before
11 you voted on this, maybe we wouldn't be in
12 the shape we're in. It's not just the Mayor
13 who screwed up. Although, he's the number
14 one screw up. But you take some
15 responsibility. Mr. Wechsler, I say you so
16 more than anybody because you didn't want
17 him to come in front of council chambers
18 because they didn't want to.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Well, that's your
20 opinion.

21 MS. FRANUS: No, it's a fact.

22 MR. WECHSLER: It's incorrect.

23 MS. FRANUS: And a lot of things I
24 say are opinions. All of the things I say
25 are opinions. My opinions also are facts.

1 And that's why you didn't get elected. But,
2 as far as the town hall meeting, do you know
3 what the definition of a town hall meeting
4 is? Do you see them on television with all
5 the Congressman and all the Senators? They
6 go to a town hall meeting. They stand on
7 the stage by themselves, nobody else
8 speaking for them. They get asked questions
9 by their constituents. This town hall
10 meeting, I understand Henry Amoroso might be
11 speaking. We did not elect Henry Amoroso.
12 We did not elect any lawyers either. So I
13 hope Bill Courtright, which I doubt very
14 much, because he has not answered one
15 question ever presented to him without
16 turning to a lawyer. Because he didn't have
17 the brain cells to do it. And everybody
18 should understand this. He should be taking
19 full responsibility for this, which I doubt
20 that he will. But considering the fact that
21 he wants this town hall meeting, you know
22 there's something really shady going on.
23 The fact that he's having it at 5 o'clock to
24 7 when people aren't even home from work and
25 are having dinner with their families on the

1 same night that the council meeting is
 2 supposed to take place, what does that tell
 3 you it? All I'm telling you is he should be
 4 there by himself. The Scranton Times should
 5 put an editorial in the paper demanding that
 6 he be there speaking and allowing every
 7 citizen that wants to speak to ask any
 8 question they so choose and to not listen to
 9 their lies. And if they say anything that
 10 aren't true, people should have a right to
 11 question them and what they say that we know
 12 are not true. So if he's having this, you
 13 know, he's going to have his own little
 14 justification for everything he did. We
 15 want to know, I wouldn't mind seeing Ned
 16 Abrahamsen and some of these younger lawyers
 17 that got paid hundreds of thousands of
 18 dollars for their legal work. I wouldn't
 19 mind seeing them stand in front of the
 20 people and explain how they bill for this,
 21 how they justify this. We have lawyers that
 22 work for the city that get paid. Why
 23 couldn't they handle it? Why did they have
 24 to hire 50 lawyers, all their buddies, all
 25 their friends? That's why we're in the

1 shape we're in. Where's the twelve million
 2 dollars? What about, not just the legal
 3 fees, how about all of the other stuff? Are
 4 they going to justify that? You still
 5 didn't get the paperwork on that. How come?
 6 Why didn't you get all the rest of the
 7 paperwork on all the money that you spent?
 8 Do you have it? Did you get it? I asked
 9 this last week.
 10 MR. WECHSLER: You just accused me
 11 of getting answers to questions that weren't
 12 right. And now, we didn't get that and--
 13 MS. FRANUS: You didn't get answers
 14 to questions.
 15 MR. WECHSLER: We did. The answers
 16 that are out there came from that meeting.
 17 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?
 18 MR. WECHSLER: The answers that are
 19 out there right now from all the bills came
 20 from the meeting that we had with Mr.
 21 Shrive.
 22 MS. FRANUS: Weeks, you just got
 23 those retracted things last week.
 24 MR. WECHSLER: Right.
 25 MS. FRANUS: For months, you haven't

1 been able to get them. But you met with
 2 them months ago and still never got them.
 3 That's what I was talking about. All the
 4 months that you never got answers to any
 5 questions that you were asked.
 6 MR. WECHSLER: We asked them and
 7 that's when we got them. We continued to
 8 ask and ask and ask.
 9 MS. FRANUS: But then, you voted for
 10 this before you got the answers to these
 11 questions which is sort of stupid.
 12 MR. WECHSLER: Or else the money
 13 could not have come into the city.
 14 MS. FRANUS: Oh, maybe the money
 15 shouldn't have come into the city. Did you
 16 ever think that maybe that should have been
 17 the way? Because now there's no money going
 18 to come in--
 19 MR. WECHSLER: Well, then we would
 20 have lost the authority and not get any of
 21 the money. So how would that be--
 22 MS. FRANUS: Oh, so now what you're
 23 going to do is now there's no more assets
 24 coming in, no money coming in so any bill
 25 you get, you have to tax the people. What

1 do you care? Just tax the people, Mr.
 2 Wechsler. Oh, don't even get me started.
 3 But I just hope that somebody does something
 4 to make sure the people get answers to these
 5 questions. I have no use for you, Mr.
 6 Wechsler. And all the stuff that you
 7 haven't done, it's despicable. So, are you
 8 going to see to it that the people get to
 9 ask questions? Do you have any say in this
 10 whatsoever?
 11 MR. WECHSLER: It's the Mayor's
 12 meeting. We have no say.
 13 MS. FRANUS: None. You couldn't
 14 even ask him to have it another night
 15 because council--that's probably the way it
 16 was planned.
 17 MR. WECHSLER: No, it's his meeting.
 18 MS. FRANUS: Yeah. Is ECTV going to
 19 film it, do you know?
 20 MR. WECHSLER: I don't believe so.
 21 MS. FRANUS: So you don't know
 22 anything.
 23 MR. WECHSLER: I'm not sure if
 24 you're hearing me. It's the Mayor's
 25 meeting.

1 MS. FRANUS: I know that. But you
2 never thought to call up. Ms. Schumacher
3 did. To call up and try to find out the
4 people speaking and how it's going to be
5 run? You never even thought to do that so
6 you could possibly tell the people?

7 MR. WECHSLER: It's the Mayor's
8 meeting.

9 MS. FRANUS: Weren't you curious as
10 to what was going to transpire that maybe
11 you could tell the people tonight or the
12 people will get a chance to speak or they
13 won't get a chance to speak? You didn't
14 even do that. And one more thing, I think
15 there should be many debates between Jim
16 Mulligan and Bill Courtright. And I hope
17 Bill Courtright has the nerve to go through
18 with it. Because he absolutely has to
19 answer to the people one on one for a
20 change. We elected him. We want to hear
21 from him. Nobody else. Just him.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman?

23 MR. ELLMAN: Mr. President and
24 Council, you must think I'm Harvey
25 Wallbanger trying to get up here.

1 MR. WECHSLER: I am liking the cats
2 though.

3 MR. ELLMAN: I didn't come to argue
4 or fight with you tonight. You can relax.
5 I didn't realize how deeply a supporter you
6 were of Mr. Bulzoni. Your last out--at
7 being enraged last week like I was a
8 criminal or something for opposing this
9 administration. I'm a tax payer. He's not.
10 I substantiate almost everything up here all
11 these years nobody's confronted me whether
12 they liked it or not. He lied to you people
13 week after week after week. And then, of
14 all things, Mayor Courtright hires him, does
15 away with a law that's supposed to be not to
16 have this. And council voted for it. All
17 this was wrong. People remember it. I've
18 heard it. In fact, I've heard it when I was
19 wasn't thinking of it no more from others.
20 But this seems to be the--Scranton's just
21 turning into the land of the forgotten it
22 seems. All this money for downtown and
23 that's all we hear about. We don't hear
24 nothing about swimming. I guess you're
25 going to leave that up to Mr. Jackowitz and

1 Andy and the rest of the people like they've
2 done year after year. \$500,000 for a friend
3 of the Mayor downtown that owes hundreds of
4 thousands of dollars in back taxes. In
5 fact, you're talking about three million
6 dollars because he wants to give a grant,
7 the city to get the grant for them. What
8 about the swimming for--these are future
9 voters. No one cares about the parks, the
10 skating. There's supposed to some kind of
11 skate board park. I don't know if that was
12 ever built. Somebody told me it wasn't.
13 Like I said, I've been almost 25 years and I
14 don't have any sidewalks and curbs. My yard
15 floods. All this money for downtown. If
16 they whine about something, they get it. It
17 doesn't matter how much money in back taxes
18 they owe. I'm going to give a quick example
19 of how many times I've come up here and
20 said, you people just are out of tune with
21 the people in this city. Last month if you
22 paid your fee before the first of May, you
23 saved \$30. Is that right? The people that
24 needed that \$30 the most were the people on
25 social security. Do you realize when the

1 social security checks come out? The third.
2 That's why there was so much turmoil
3 downtown downstairs. This was--would have
4 been so simple if you had somebody that was
5 in touch with the people of this city. It's
6 just another example. You guys just don't
7 care about the people of this city anymore.
8 And we're the ones paying for everything and
9 not getting our money's worth. But, I
10 promised I wouldn't offend you tonight. I'm
11 glad you all didn't sit here and drink water
12 and have to go to the bathroom to hear my
13 couple minutes. That was an effort. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus?

16 MR. BOLUS: Evening, council, Bob
17 Bolus, Scranton. It's kind of interesting
18 to come here and listen to everybody and see
19 everything that's been going on. One of the
20 last times I was here, I gave the analogy of
21 a horse in a barn. When the horse leaves,
22 what he deposits in the barn and they leave
23 you a shovel to clean it up. This is what
24 happened to your sewer deal. Your parking
25 garage deal. And the mall. You guys

1 honestly think the horse is now going to
 2 back up into the barn and redeposit money
 3 into the shovel that he left you? I don't
 4 think so. It's not a reality. It's not
 5 going to happen. The attorneys aren't
 6 giving you one bloody dime back for costs,
 7 expenses or anything else. Forget it, it's
 8 gone. You know, you guys and the Mayor, I
 9 don't know who is confused or who is
 10 incompetent in this deal. But it really
 11 stinks just like that barn. Because what's
 12 happened to the people in this community, I
 13 can't put in words. Or I'd probably get
 14 thrown out of here if I really said what I
 15 really think. You know, transparency, I'm
 16 so sick of hearing Mr. Gaughan and
 17 everybody, we want transparency. Guys, you
 18 signed the recovery plan. Where in God's
 19 name was the transparency when you did this?
 20 You weren't there. You were clueless. And
 21 now you want transparency? Get realistic.
 22 It's not coming here. Let's talk about the
 23 six million dollars? You want transparency?
 24 That you gave to the mall. Parking garage
 25 for a dollar. The mall bought his building

1 for him and everything else. You guys all
 2 signed it. You and the Mayor. Want to talk
 3 about transparency? What you cost the
 4 taxpayers? Money could have went to the
 5 pension fund, money could have went
 6 anywhere. Money could have went to the
 7 swimming pool. But you gave it to the mall
 8 for zero. Transparency. It's a big word
 9 around here, but it's a word that you start
 10 looking at the mall, the parking garage, the
 11 sewer deal. It's like looking for fool's
 12 gold. That's what you's are doing. You're
 13 making a fool out of yourselves. You're
 14 making a bigger fool out of us, when you
 15 think you're going to regain something.
 16 Remember a little saying. The past is gone,
 17 the present is now, the future belongs to no
 18 one. Look where you are right now and you
 19 can't predict the future, gentlemen. Don't
 20 even come close. You know, when you turned
 21 around and we keep watching the nonsense
 22 that goes on here, Mr. Gaughan, you keep
 23 using the word transparency in the
 24 neighborhood meetings. Well, where were the
 25 neighborhood groups? The Marinucci's, the

1 Spano's and all the other leaders in the
 2 groups, where the hell have they been? Have
 3 they been here or here? Look around. Who
 4 is here? A handful of people, a handful of
 5 citizens. They're the know-it-alls. They
 6 know everything. Now, they want us to talk
 7 about transparency? They should look in the
 8 mirror and realize they were part--a major
 9 part of what happened because they allowed
 10 this to go on. They allowed, don't come
 11 crying, don't sit here whining that you want
 12 us or something's going to change. It's not
 13 going to happen, people. You sat on your
 14 butts. You did nothing. Now, you're paying
 15 the consequences. And it's only the tip of
 16 the iceberg as this city sinks. And you're
 17 not looking at any way you or anywhere else
 18 can bring in revenue. You're just looking
 19 at ripping these people off. Remember, the
 20 Mayor rules. He's in charge. You're going
 21 to have a stupid town meeting in a couple
 22 days. Which is going to be dumb.
 23 Cancelling meetings. You're changing things
 24 around. You honestly think a sugar coated
 25 meeting is going to mean anything? You want

1 to think that the Mayor is going to sit
 2 there and hand you money back, transparency?
 3 What are you going to look for? Are you
 4 looking through a looking glass? It's not
 5 going to be there. You blew money. Just
 6 been careless. You've been negligent. And
 7 I'm sorry to say some of you's even came
 8 back on this council to be very honest with
 9 you. Because you didn't give the people
 10 what they deserved. And what they deserved
 11 was integrity, honestly, to get the right
 12 answers. Before you ever signed the
 13 recovery plan, you should have asked your
 14 solicitor or all the other solicitors in
 15 this city. You should have precluded the
 16 Mayor from hiring anybody out there. We
 17 have enough solicitors in the city and in
 18 the county to do the job that we're already
 19 paying for. Those are the things that
 20 transparency is about. It's integrity, it's
 21 honesty. But most of all, it's
 22 self-examination. And something of you guys
 23 need to do if you're going to sit here for
 24 four more years. You put us where we are.
 25 Don't think you're going to get any benefit

1 next week, next Thursday, listening to the
 2 Mayor sugar coat what he's done and what
 3 he'll continue to do. You're not going to
 4 win the battle. You lost it. As I said,
 5 you're looking for fool's gold. And if you
 6 think you're going to run the city for four
 7 more years after this, you guys better wake
 8 up and smell the coffee. Look at the debt
 9 we're facing. Look at the pensions, look at
 10 the issues. But you're not realistic.

11 You're living in the sky, you got a pie in
 12 the sky attitude. It's time to bring it
 13 down and get real because we've got serious
 14 issues. Look at all the for sale homes and
 15 none of you guys are doing your job.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
 17 Bolus.

18 MR. BOLUS: And last off, Mr.

19 Wechsler, I'm glad--

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

21 MR. BOLUS: Mr. Wechsler--

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

23 MR. BOLUS: I'm glad the people
 24 spoke and kicked you the hell out of here.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

2 MR. BOLUS: We'll be happier for it,
 3 buddy. Glad you're gone.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
 5 Bolus. I'm not going anywhere. I won't be
 6 on council, but I'll still be in the city.

7 MR. BOLUS: I know you will. And
 8 unfortunately, that's the sad part of this.

9 But you will be gone. That's the happy
 10 part.

11 MR. WECHSLER: I'll still be in the
 12 city, Mr. Bolus.

13 MR. BOLUS: I can't wait. And thank
 14 you because I threw a great part--

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

16 MR. BOLUS: --to get you the hell
 17 out of here.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.
 19 I'll be here until December. Thank you.

20 Les Spindler?

21 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
 22 council, Les Spindler, city resident, home
 23 owner and taxpayer. Two weeks ago, council
 24 up here, I asked you to check on that hole
 25 on Dorothy Street. I walked by there that

1 following Tuesday and it was filled in with
 2 nice soil. So, I thank you.

3 MR. PERRY: Well, I passed it along.
 4 DPW took care of it.

5 MR. SPINDLER: My thanks a lot to
 6 Director Gallagher and his people.

7 MR. PERRY: I'll pass that along.
 8 Thank you.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Quick action, thank
 10 you. For a long time now, Councilman
 11 Gaughan, I've asked you why you have such
 12 disdain towards the Mayor. He can't do
 13 anything right in your eyes. And I finally
 14 found out. You worked for OECD under Chris
 15 Doherty. And when Mayor Courtright took
 16 over, you lost your job. Now, I know why
 17 Mayor Doherty--Mayor Courtright can do
 18 nothing right in your eyes.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: That is patently
 20 false. I left OECD to run for council. So
 21 you just lied at a public meeting. Don't
 22 stand at the podium and lie, Mr. Spindler.
 23 Get your facts straight. I left OECD. I
 24 resigned from OECD to run for city council.
 25 So get your facts straight before you talk

1 about anything that has to do with me.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Mayor Courtright is
 3 trying to fix something that the person you
 4 supported, he ruined this city. And Mayor
 5 Courtright is trying to fix it and he can't
 6 do anything right in your eyes. You and
 7 Councilman Evans and everybody else who
 8 supported Chris Doherty are part of the
 9 reason Mayor Courtright has to do what he's
 10 doing. Because Chris Dorothy ruined this
 11 city. Two weeks ago, I also brought up
 12 about the gentleman who spoke here a while
 13 back about Leggitt's Creek. And I think
 14 it's a DEP issue. They should be brought
 15 in. Has Council taken any action on that?
 16 I think that's two weeks ago. I think a
 17 letter should be sent to DEP. That's an
 18 environmental issue. Nothing was done.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: I've been in contact
 20 with Bernie McGurl. So it is being looked
 21 at.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, thank you.
 23 Okay, something on a positive note, watching
 24 the news tonight, there was a story of three
 25 West Scranton students who recently drew a

1 mural or painted a mural of a firefighter.
 2 And yesterday it was hung in the gym at fire
 3 headquarters. And Chief DeSarno spoke. He
 4 said that while it was hanging, the
 5 firefighters there, I guess it was covered.
 6 They asked him what he was doing? When they
 7 unveiled it, they said it was beautiful.
 8 They loved it. They said that's going to be
 9 there as long as fire headquarters is there.
 10 And I think the parents of these children
 11 should be proud of them. It's something
 12 very nice they did. And it really speaks
 13 well of what's going on in West Scranton
 14 High School. Lastly, Ms. Franus was here
 15 criticizing the Mayor again, what time he's
 16 having the town hall meeting. You know
 17 what, in her eyes, I don't think it would
 18 matter what time he had the meeting, she
 19 would criticize it. She's criticizing
 20 having it 5 to 7 because that's when people
 21 eat. If he had it during the day, she'd
 22 criticize him saying for having it then when
 23 people are working. Some people in this
 24 city, no matter what the Mayor does, no
 25 matter what times he does it, it won't be

1 good in their eyes. As I said, I think the
 2 Mayor is doing a fair job with the mess he
 3 was left by 12 years of Chris Doherty.
 4 That's all I have tonight. Thank you.
 5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Lee
 6 Morgan?
 7 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, council,
 8 Lee Morgan. I think I'd like to say that
 9 I'm still interested in people calling me
 10 about a write-in for Mayor and Council. I
 11 have received some responses to that. But
 12 I'd like to give my phone number. It's
 13 570-604-1212. And this is really something
 14 that can happen here because the general
 15 populous is really disgusted with this
 16 council and this administration. And
 17 there's been over 25 years of pain and
 18 suffering in this city. And it's worse now
 19 than when we went into distressed status.
 20 And you can, you know, discuss issues from a
 21 multitude of various points. But the truth
 22 of the matter is that the residents are
 23 responsible for the mess that this city is
 24 in. Because they've elected one incompetent
 25 elected official after another. And that

1 burden falls on them, not the people they've
 2 elected. But I'd like to say that I
 3 recently talked to somebody in the PUC about
 4 the sewer deal. And they want me to send
 5 them a complaint and I will. But I think
 6 they understand when I spoke to them whoever
 7 the chairman is exactly the kind of
 8 silliness that took place in this city. And
 9 you know, the pathetic sad part is that you
 10 five people were elected to take care of the
 11 city and its residents. But not one of you
 12 will step forward and do that. It's really
 13 pathetic. And as far as the deal for the
 14 Scranton Sewer Authority, well, you know,
 15 Mr. Wechsler, you said you were opposed to
 16 the deal, but yet you introduced it. And
 17 the sewer authority couldn't have sold
 18 itself without permission from council. And
 19 I think that people in this city have been
 20 lied to for a very long time. And I don't
 21 know if they're--I really don't know if
 22 they're smart enough or they care enough to
 23 do something about it. And I think that
 24 we'll find that out in the general election.
 25 And I hope there are a few people that are

1 willing to do it right and just to prove to
 2 the smug people who think they run
 3 everything with money and votes that there
 4 comes a point where the huddled masses in
 5 this country which is the electorate finally
 6 stand up and tell the people that are
 7 fiscally connected to the people that are
 8 pulling all the shots that they've had
 9 enough. They did that in the election of
 10 Donald Trump. Don't forget that the
 11 Republicans against him spent an awful lot
 12 of money and an awful lot of democrats came
 13 across party lines to vote for him. The
 14 only problem is, the American people don't
 15 really understand the kind of shape
 16 financially that America's in. And it's
 17 worse than Greece. And they're going to see
 18 it because Medicaid funding is ending in
 19 some states. And there are a lot of other
 20 things taking place in this country. And as
 21 far as the council and the Mayor, you know,
 22 running the city, I wouldn't say in a
 23 business like way. Because government isn't
 24 business. But in a legitimate way that
 25 protects the interest of the populous.

1 We've got city pools that have been closed
 2 for a decade. We're going to build a splash
 3 park, a bankrupt community is going to build
 4 a splash park in place of the Novembrino
 5 pool. All the easy money that flows around
 6 to be politically spent has been funneled
 7 into the city. The bridge down in the
 8 gorge. The treehouse. I mean, the
 9 treehouse comes up because of the way it was
 10 constructed. But the bridge down in the
 11 gorge is beyond ridiculous. You could drive
 12 a tractor trailer across that bridge and it
 13 goes nowhere but to a walking pad. It's
 14 absolutely asinine considering the state of
 15 our city. And you know, you take a look at
 16 the streets. The machine we bought to make
 17 permanent repairs to potholes in the city, I
 18 don't know, not existent. Probably went
 19 somewhere for scrap. But you're our
 20 guardians. You're here to protect our
 21 interests and serve us. But is that really
 22 what's happening? And being smug and
 23 holding meetings in the back room over at
 24 council chambers is ridiculous. Because it
 25 just proves that you're not willing to come

1 out into the light and discuss issues. And
 2 I understand that some issues should be
 3 discussed there. But there's an awful lot
 4 of issues that should be discussed in
 5 public. And in regards to the sewer deal,
 6 it wasn't a deal. It was a theft.
 7 Pennsylvania American Water would have built
 8 a sewage collection system and a treatment
 9 center if they could have made a profit
 10 doing it. But no, the residents of the city
 11 paid for it all with bonds and you are its
 12 guardians. So you know, when you're trying
 13 to be somebody's guardian and it turns out
 14 to be an elected official, you know it just
 15 goes to prove one thing, my last point, the
 16 shooting that recently took place of an
 17 elected official from Washington, that may
 18 be only the beginning. Because don't forget
 19 one thing here--
 20 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Morgan, we're not
 21 going to go there.
 22 MR. MORGAN: Hold on.
 23 MR. WECHSLER: Please, we're not
 24 going to talk about shooting as an option.
 25 MR. MORGAN: When Mrs. Gatelli was

1 here, they posted a guard here. They had a
 2 policeman come in here. And there's a
 3 reason for that.
 4 MR. WECHSLER: People talk about
 5 shooting--
 6 MR. MORGAN: People--don't talk over
 7 the top of me.
 8 MR. WECHSLER: Well, I'm asking you
 9 not to--
 10 MR. MORGAN: No, I'm asking you to
 11 stop and let me make my point.
 12 MR. WECHSLER: I'm asking you--
 13 MR. MORGAN: I'm asking you to stop
 14 and let me make my point. You run this
 15 meeting, but I have a point to make. And
 16 freedom of speech--
 17 MR. WECHSLER: I think you're out of
 18 order talking about shooting.
 19 MR. MORGAN: Well, then you should
 20 take me to court and have me arrested and
 21 then we'll see what happens.
 22 MR. WECHSLER: No, I'm asking you to
 23 stop. Your time is up and you're talking
 24 about shooting.
 25 MR. MORGAN: Here's my point, Ms.

1 Gatelli had a guard posted here. They put
 2 monitors in the doorways so that nobody
 3 would bring a gun in here.
 4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.
 5 MR. MORGAN: But you know what
 6 happens here is this, is that we have
 7 elected officials that have such contempt
 8 for us, they want to control what we say,
 9 what we do as they steal every one of our
 10 assets. And Mr. Wechsler, any time you want
 11 to meet me in a public forum and debate your
 12 performance here, let me know.
 13 MR. WECHSLER: That's fine, Mr.
 14 Morgan, but I think it's out of--
 15 MR. MORGAN: Please don't talk to me
 16 when I leave the podium. Thank you.
 17 MR. WECHSLER: I'm making a general
 18 comment. I think it's disrespectful--
 19 MR. MORGAN: General comments at
 20 council?
 21 MR. WECHSLER: For a--
 22 MR. MORGAN: How about doing your
 23 job? How about doing your job?
 24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank, Mr. Morgan.
 25 MR. MORGAN: Yes, thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?
 2 MR. DOBRYZN: Good evening, council,
 3 Dave Dobryzn, resident of Scranton. And if
 4 you see me have any--
 5 MR. PERRY: Mr. Dobryzn, I'm sorry,
 6 I can't hear you. I'm still--my ears are
 7 ringing from the last--
 8 MR. DOBRYZN: Yeah, I hear you.
 9 MR. PERRY: Just give me a second to
 10 regather my hearing.
 11 MR. DOBRYZN: Reset the clock,
 12 please.
 13 MR. PERRY: We went from one type to
 14 the other, so.
 15 MR. DOBRYZN: I try to be a little
 16 less shrill. I don't care much for talking
 17 to the secret service about my comments. If
 18 you see me out at the parade or the concert
 19 downtown, don't give me the dock like some
 20 people did last year from the
 21 administration. I don't carry a shotgun
 22 under my trench coat, okay. I don't believe
 23 in it. Okay, let's get started here. A
 24 word from our sponsor. Tuck's. You like
 25 this shirt? Very nice.

1 MR. EVANS: It's not cats.
 2 MR. DOBRYZN: It was designed a
 3 little. So, you know, my point about Tuck's
 4 is they never received 27 million dollars in
 5 loans. Obviously, never will. And it's
 6 time we start to support businessmen that
 7 actually do something for the community.
 8 And the poor guy slipped last winter and
 9 busted up his hip. And he was out for six
 10 weeks. The store was closed, so give him a
 11 couple of bucks. Get in there and get a
 12 nice t-shirt. I'll even let you wear it to
 13 council. The sidewalk up here, I seen the
 14 tables on the way in. And the thought
 15 occurred to me that we're so obsessed with
 16 stopping and preventing restaurants from
 17 having a smoking area separate from eating
 18 area that we outlawed it. Somehow everybody
 19 needs to be sprawled out on the sidewalk. I
 20 really, with my luck, I'd pay 30 or 40 bucks
 21 for a dinner and the pigeon would fly by.
 22 But the thought occurred to me with city
 23 taxes and fees, too many are due at winter's
 24 end. And we have taxes fall through and
 25 then the trash bill falls through. And the

1 dog license is due. And you know, it gets a
 2 little overwhelming. I often wish that we
 3 could find a way to space these things out
 4 without--I'd gladly it be later in the
 5 summer, pay half of my trash fee for next
 6 year as long as I could get my senior
 7 citizen's discount then. You know, it's
 8 just too much. And I don't think that \$300
 9 is too much. But it's too much at one time
 10 to have to pay my two properties. And then,
 11 the \$300 and it gets difficult. And once
 12 again, on trash, I contend that 80 percent
 13 of the cost or similar to that is the cost
 14 of showing up at your front door for a crew
 15 and trucks, fuel, insurance, go on and on
 16 and on with that. But I spoke to a newbie
 17 last week and he didn't have his trash
 18 sorted right. And then, he found out that
 19 we had to put it down front, and I'm not
 20 going to do that. So, you know, we rush in
 21 with some new thing that, like new idea like
 22 pay to throw. And we don't try to make the
 23 old system work. And sometimes, at 7 and a
 24 half million dollars over several years not
 25 collected for trash fees, most people are

1 living off the people that pay. And if you
 2 don't have the money, I apologize, but there
 3 are a lot of people that have a lot of money
 4 and they have fancy cars and they have
 5 rental properties and income properties and
 6 you name it. And they just don't pay up.
 7 They just don't pay up and it's a shame.
 8 It's really a shame. So, it's time that we
 9 at least look into a study as to what's
 10 going wrong. And we may have to step on a
 11 few politically powerful toes and tell them
 12 it's their turn to pay too. We really do.
 13 Because I do happen to know, I see recycle
 14 buckets in the back of people's income
 15 properties and everything else. And I see
 16 what's in the trash. And it's time to hold
 17 the people responsible causing the problem.
 18 Don't punish the people that aren't. Thank
 19 you and have a good evening.
 20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
 21 else?
 22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
 23 Scranton City Council, Cathy, Stenographer,
 24 Lori, Amil and a good welcome to Mark in the
 25 back room who makes this all possible. Mark

1 is one who's been with us every week. And
 2 I've been neglecting to say good evening to
 3 Mark. So shout out to you Mark. Okay,
 4 first of all, I need to admit that I made a
 5 mistake when I said that the Mayor wasn't
 6 going to hold this town hall meeting until
 7 after the election. I was wrong. He showed
 8 more courage than I gave him credit for.
 9 So, kudos out to Mayor Courtright for
 10 holding his town hall meeting. Although, I
 11 think the town hall meeting really isn't
 12 going to accomplish anything. Because like
 13 the speaker before me said he's going to be
 14 sitting up there with a whole bunch of his
 15 cronies sitting next to him, lawyers and
 16 whoever else he's going to bring along with
 17 him. And I know if I get an opportunity to
 18 ask a question, I'm asking Mayor Courtright
 19 the question. I hope no one else tries to
 20 answer that question for Mayor Courtright.
 21 I hope Mayor Courtright--I will make a point
 22 that Mayor Courtright answer the question,
 23 not one of his lawyers, not one of his
 24 cronies, but Mayor Courtright himself answer
 25 the question. And as far as the time limit

1 goes, I take it was pretty slick on his part
 2 to have it on a Thursday from 5 to 7. It
 3 should be from 5 until question mark. There
 4 should be no time limit at the end of it.
 5 If people want to talk until 9 o'clock, 10
 6 o'clock, 11 o'clock at night, then they
 7 should be allowed to do it. Because we
 8 only--this is the first town hall meeting
 9 we've had and this is a very important
 10 meeting. This meeting basically is going to
 11 resolve this whole city, where the city's
 12 going and what's going to happen with it.
 13 So there should be no time limit as far as
 14 ending time. And people should be allowed
 15 to ask their questions. And no one should
 16 be rushed and no one should be hurried. And
 17 they should be allowed to go to until, like
 18 I said, if there's enough people there--I
 19 mean, I have no idea how many people are
 20 going to show up. It might be a big crowd.
 21 It might be a medium sized crowd. It might
 22 be a small crowd. I have no idea. But
 23 everyone who has a question at that town
 24 hall meeting should be allowed the
 25 opportunity to ask that question. And

1 again, the only person that should be
 2 answering any of the questions is Mayor
 3 Courtright. No one else. And I hope city
 4 council can relay that message to the Mayor
 5 for me. I've been trying to, but he won't
 6 accept my phone calls. So, I hope someone
 7 on city council gets a hold of the Mayor and
 8 mentions this to him: Hey Mayor, it's your
 9 town hall meeting like Mr. Wechsler said.
 10 It's the mayor's meeting. He's the one
 11 conducting it. He's the one who scheduled
 12 it. So he's the one who should be answering
 13 the questions. And he's the one who's in
 14 charge of that meeting and no one else.
 15 Hopefully, I hope he's up on the podium or
 16 on the stage by himself. That would be the
 17 best thing possible would be for him to show
 18 up and sit on that stage all by himself.
 19 And with his glass of water and that's about
 20 all that should be up on that stage. The
 21 Mayor and his glass of water or bottle of
 22 water now a days. But, anyway, I hear
 23 that--now this is just--I don't know if this
 24 is fact. I don't know if it's made public.
 25 But I hear Mayor Doherty's nephew got the

1 health care contract for the city employees.
 2 Is that true? Has anybody heard anything
 3 yet?
 4 MR. EVANS: No.
 5 MR. JACKOWITZ: I heard that today
 6 that Mayor Doherty's nephew got the contract
 7 for the health care for city employees. And
 8 well, it doesn't surprise me. But I
 9 understand he wasn't the lowest bidder
 10 either. It doesn't surprise me, but we need
 11 to find out if that's true or not. And I
 12 guess that's about it. Pretty feisty
 13 meeting today. Kind of reminds me of the
 14 old days, you know. Maybe I'll get to get
 15 my boxing gloves back out from the closet
 16 and start bringing them to the meetings for
 17 me. It was a little feisty today, but a
 18 little feisty is good in life. It kind of
 19 motivates people and gets people's spirit
 20 up. So you all have a good night.
 21 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?
 22 MS. SCHUMACHER: And so it starts, 6
 23 a.m., tonight's agenda, last Sunday's paper,
 24 "Something should be done. The property at
 25 the former Serrenti Army Reserve Center on

1 Colfax Avenue in Scranton has fallen into
2 disrepair with overgrown grass and poorly
3 maintained appearance. The city which has
4 control of the property is in the process of
5 formally acquiring ownership. Neighbors
6 complain that the condition of the site has
7 become a detriment to the neighborhood.
8 Something should be done." So, we have the
9 issue of maintenance. We have the issue of
10 everybody extolling the need for it because
11 of all this sophisticated equipment that's
12 being stored there. And that leads to what
13 is going to be the insurance increment for
14 that property. Has anybody inquired of
15 Knowles?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: I inquired with the
17 business administrator and he said he would
18 get me that answer.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: When?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: He didn't give me a
21 timeline.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And not this
23 one inspired me, because this was this
24 weeks, but last weeks's inspired me to
25 think; what could possibly be done to

1 correct the problem at Seymour Avenue and
2 307? So I went over the next Monday and I
3 with my tape measure, I walked over and
4 measured the rectangle that is at the top
5 on--which the grill, which is missing,
6 should be placed. And I measured the depth
7 which was 30 inches. Protecting that was
8 some of that pink or orange florescent paint
9 around the three outer edges and two cones
10 of similar color. So I submitted that and
11 that was in the morning. And in the
12 afternoon, I was taking the little guy to a
13 dental appointment. And I just laughed when
14 I got to 307 because the two cones had been
15 placed on the Seymour Avenue where the last
16 rain storm had washed out a big chunk of the
17 pavement and it was a nasty hit. So, the
18 cones were there and there were two horses
19 placed over the 30 inch hole which is right
20 at the corner. That doesn't cut it guys.
21 We really have to address things. That
22 whole corridor of 307 is fading away again
23 on the shoulder. It's eating into the--it's
24 now eating into the line at the end. And
25 there's some nasty drop offs. And I for one

1 am not going to beg the state to do it again
2 this time because we don't do our part.
3 That whole pipe has to be replaced. And
4 yet, nothing happens. We get horses and
5 paint and cones. Well, moving on to paving.
6 I did go as I--I did not get through all the
7 backup last week. But I did go home and
8 after Mr. Gaughan noted that it was, the
9 tentative paving list was in. For the East
10 Mountain, there are nine streets. The first
11 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, are
12 in a development on the Dunmore side of 307.
13 They--some of them are only out on one
14 block, some are two or three. But I would
15 encourage all of you to go and drive those
16 streets and see if they are one of the worst
17 in this city. And then, when you leave
18 there, drive down Elmhurst Boulevard and get
19 onto 307 down at the foot. And see what
20 that's like. If anything needs to be done
21 on the side of the hill, it's a big chunk of
22 Elmhurst Boulevard. I don't know what our
23 criteria is, but I sure hope you ask how
24 these are arrived at. Mountain Lake Road,
25 there are places where the road just

1 disappears and it's not too shabby when it's
2 dry. But when it rains, you're into a great
3 big mud puddle. I think we should be doing
4 the works. And Mr. Gaughan, did you ever
5 share that pothole truck information that I
6 gave you with Mr. Gallagher?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I did, I forwarded it
8 to him. I didn't--

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, I have a lot
10 more. I think we should pursue that. I
11 really think we should be doing the works.
12 Some of these, that pothole machine would be
13 perfect for some other things and I have a
14 lot more and I will try to be back in two
15 weeks I guess, it is now, huh? Or are we
16 going to have a different night next week?

17 MR. WECHSLER: No, there was no
18 available evening. Wednesday night was
19 taken with the PEL meeting, so Tuesday is
20 too early, so we tried.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
23 else?

24 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5A.
25 MOTIONS.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?
 2 MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you. I just
 3 have one thing tonight. I promised last
 4 week that we would do some research on which
 5 is 6A which is the Serrenti building. We
 6 did get some information from Chief Graziano
 7 on some of the minor studies that were done.
 8 And it was 11 pages with some enclosures. I
 9 picked out some of the more permanent
 10 things. I'll address them right now. First
 11 of all, this one is--was done in March of
 12 2014. The purpose of the finding is
 13 suitable to transfer or affose it to
 14 document the environmental suitability of
 15 the property of the Serrenti Memorial
 16 Building, the reserve center located in
 17 Scranton, Pennsylvania for the transfer to
 18 the Scranton School District. If you
 19 remember at that time, that's when the
 20 school district was potentially interested
 21 in it. And that's when this study was done
 22 in March of 2014. This study covered
 23 numerous environmental situations such as
 24 storage, release or disposal of hazardous
 25 substances, petroleum, petroleum products,

1 polychlorinated biphenyls, asbestos, lead
 2 based paints, radiological materials, radon,
 3 munitions and explosives of concern. And
 4 after all the findings, a finding of
 5 suitable to transfer. Based on the
 6 information above, I conclude that all
 7 removal or remedial actions necessary to
 8 protect human health and the environment
 9 have been taken. In addition, all
 10 Department of Defense requirements to reach
 11 a finding suitable to transfer have been met
 12 subject to the terms and conditions in the
 13 environmental protection provisions that
 14 shall be included in the deed for the
 15 property. The deed will also include the
 16 access provisions and other deed provisions.
 17 Whereas no hazardous substances were stored
 18 for one year or more known to have been
 19 released disposed on this parcel, hazardous
 20 substance notification is not required. And
 21 this was performed by Jeff Hirsick, Chief
 22 Environmental Division USAR Land Division
 23 RSC. That was done in 2014. We had another
 24 study done by FEMA. This was done just
 25 recently, April 26th of this year. And this

1 was done by a Raymond Palmer. And he, based
 2 on the usage that the city wants to use it
 3 for, to not going forward to contaminate, we
 4 assessed the environmental impact of the
 5 identified use that the City of Scranton
 6 would be using it for. Minimal, if any.
 7 The description of the proposed use as
 8 provided by the City of Scranton does not
 9 indicate any special issues that would
 10 suggest a different level of impact in this
 11 case. The City of Scranton, any agency
 12 funding, issuing permits or enacting the
 13 property transfer or project limitations
 14 should consider additional information as
 15 appropriate to comply with several involved
 16 state and federal fire laws and executive
 17 orders. We recommend inserting the
 18 following clauses to transfer. And then, it
 19 just goes on. So as far as the
 20 environmental impact, I was pleased that we
 21 did get this information before we were
 22 given the--I guess you can say the domain to
 23 use the building. But now that the deed is
 24 going to be transferred, we just--Councilman
 25 Gaughan and myself, we wanted to see this

1 one more time, find the date line and make
 2 sure. I'm sure he'll have comments on it as
 3 well as his findings on the readings. As
 4 far as the grass cutting, that's basic.
 5 We've just got to take care of our own. I
 6 mean, there's no reason for that. Anybody
 7 who owns property in the City of Scranton
 8 has to take care of their own. I'm not
 9 going to sit here and make excuses why that
 10 is like that. But, you know, I'll make a
 11 phone call tomorrow and see what happens.
 12 We need a plan in place. It just can't
 13 happen. We're the City of Scranton. We own
 14 the building. We have to take care of it.
 15 We have to own it. If we're going to
 16 enforce laws on other people, it starts and
 17 ends with us. So that's an embarrassing
 18 mark on us, I do agree. So that has to be
 19 fixed. And I'll reserve the rest of my
 20 comments to other agenda items. That's all
 21 I have today, Mr. Wechsler. Thank you.
 22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
 23 Rogan?
 24 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just two brief
 25 items I want to speak a little bit about

1 more at length. I do want to mention, we
 2 did receive a letter from the Street Cats
 3 and Dogs Group that operates the old Nay Aug
 4 Zoo. And they're going to be having some
 5 ceremonies regarding the zoo turning 100
 6 years old this year. And for anyone who
 7 doesn't know what this organization has been
 8 doing is they trap, neuter and release feral
 9 cats within the City of Scranton. And I
 10 just want to give a big shout out and a
 11 thank you to Joanne and the entire
 12 organization for the good work that they do.
 13 They're all volunteers. It's done strictly
 14 as a volunteer basis. And what their
 15 program does is it cuts down on the
 16 population of feral cats within the
 17 community in a safe and humane way. So I
 18 want thank them for all their hard work and
 19 I hope to be able to be at the ceremony for
 20 the 100th anniversary. I remember as a kid
 21 going up to see the elephant up at the zoo.
 22 We did receive correspondence regarding
 23 demolition of hazardous structures. Seven
 24 structures that are under contract are 214
 25 Wheeler Avenue, 608 Mineral Avenue, 224

1 Ferdinand Street, 326-328 Rear South Hyde
 2 Park, 1303 Stafford, 1011 Cedar and 925
 3 Slocum Street. This is \$87,000 that's
 4 allocated for the demolition of these seven
 5 hazardous structures. And there's an
 6 additional \$150,000 allocated in the 2017
 7 CDBG allotment. Obviously--and I've been to
 8 a number of these properties, these are some
 9 of the worst of the worst. There's
 10 obviously a number of other properties in
 11 the city that need to be demolished or
 12 rehabbed as well. And Councilman Evans and
 13 myself had some discussions this week and
 14 we're going to continue to work on changing
 15 the condemnation policy in the city and
 16 hopefully try to provide some incentive to
 17 have these properties rehabbed versus having
 18 them torn down. Finally, I read in the
 19 Scranton Times today or was it yesterday
 20 about the county assessment. And as much as
 21 this is quite common, I have to disagree
 22 with many of the comments that are in this
 23 article, particularly the comments of
 24 Commissioner Cummings. Commissioner
 25 Cummings states when she was 25-years-old

1 and house hunting, real estate taxes didn't
 2 cross her mind. Anyone who has purchased a
 3 property or is looking to purchase a home in
 4 the city or anywhere, real estate taxes
 5 certainly have to cross your mind. Because
 6 there are properties within the city that
 7 are the exact same size in similar
 8 neighborhoods that have--that pay different
 9 taxes. And that's just not fair. For
 10 instance, if a home for \$100,000 has a tax
 11 bill of \$3,000 or a tax bill of \$2,000, not
 12 only is it an extra thousand dollars out of
 13 your pocket every year, it may cost a
 14 potential buyer, they may not be able to
 15 obtain the loan because of that extra cost.
 16 So for Commissioner Cummings to say when she
 17 was looking for a home, the real estate
 18 taxes didn't cross her mind, I don't see how
 19 that could be the case. She goes onto say
 20 that there's no fairness in property home
 21 ownership. On this point, I completely
 22 agree. Because Lackawanna County hasn't
 23 done a reassessment in almost five decades,
 24 there is no fairness in real estate taxes
 25 throughout Lackawanna County. And

1 particularly, in Scranton. Looking
 2 throughout the city, you could find homes on
 3 the same block on the same size lot with
 4 very similar square footage in the same
 5 condition paying up to a thousand dollars
 6 difference in taxes, not in assessed value,
 7 a thousand dollars difference in taxes.
 8 There are homes in the city that pay as
 9 little as \$800 in tax a year. I know that's
 10 hard to believe for most of you out there.
 11 But there are people that pay as little as
 12 \$800. There are other homes that are large
 13 homes that are much higher. And if you're
 14 buying a more expensive larger property, it
 15 should be taxed at a higher rate. But it
 16 needs to be fair. And going 50 years
 17 without a reassessment certainly highlights
 18 that, you know, what we see with the appeals
 19 that it's a race to the bottom. It's the
 20 people who have the money that could afford
 21 an attorney are filing appeals and getting
 22 their taxes lowered while the average
 23 people, working people and senior citizens
 24 just continue to pay the bill because they
 25 don't have the means or the knowledge of how

1 to appeal their taxes. So, I would like to
 2 appeal once again to the commissioners to
 3 move forward with this reassessment. You
 4 know, this article goes onto say that
 5 Cummings fears a reassessment will lead to
 6 tax increases for low income elderly
 7 residents and force them out of their homes.
 8 Commissioner Jerry Notariani rightly rebuts
 9 that those are the residents that will
 10 generally see their bills decline while it's
 11 the affluent areas that will see their taxes
 12 increase because of a reassessment. And he
 13 goes onto say that the lack of a
 14 reassessment in Scranton depresses property
 15 values and continues to discourage economic
 16 development in the city. This council
 17 passed the tax abatement on new construction
 18 that would give, you pay zero tax on new
 19 construction for the first three years. And
 20 I don't believe there's been one person
 21 that's taken advantage of it yet. A big
 22 part of it is that if you build a house
 23 randomly, your tax bill is probably going to
 24 be double of purchasing a house the same
 25 size in the same neighborhood. That's not

1 fair. And that's part of the problem.
 2 Again, I would just like to reiterate, I
 3 hope the county comes out with their final
 4 report. I know Chief of Staff Wallace is
 5 continuing to do research on what it would
 6 take to conduct a county wide reassessment.
 7 It says he's expected to deliver his
 8 findings to the commissioners within the
 9 next two weeks. So, we'll certainly be
 10 looking at those findings very closely. And
 11 for the residents of Scranton, particularly
 12 senior citizens and those who have lived in
 13 a home for a very long time, you're probably
 14 paying more than you should be. And there
 15 are those particularly outside of the city
 16 on the county tax that aren't paying their
 17 fair share. And a reassessment is the only
 18 way to set that straight. So I would hope
 19 Commissioner Cummings would reconsider her
 20 position. And I'd like to thank
 21 Commissioner Notariani for his support.
 22 That is all. Thank you.
 23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
 24 Evans?
 25 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Okay,

1 first's things first, I would like to make a
 2 motion to send correspondence to the
 3 business administrator requesting that he
 4 draft legislation to create a special fees
 5 account for revenue from the Smart Cities
 6 Program. And that all revenue would be
 7 directed into that account for the exclusive
 8 use for the downtown and neighborhood
 9 commercial districts for infrastructure
 10 improvements and/or economic development
 11 initiatives for those areas. Any use of the
 12 funds shall require approval of both the
 13 mayor and city council as well as input from
 14 the stake holders of the identified target
 15 areas.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on
 18 the floor and a second. On the question?
 19 All those in favor signify by saying aye?

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
 25 ayes have it. So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'd also
 2 like to announce that, we had this at
 3 council last year, but I wanted to bring it
 4 to everyone's attention again, the City
 5 Council Cup will be given to the fastest
 6 female and male runner over a three race
 7 road running series beginning tonight at the
 8 Run Around Scranton that started at the
 9 Terra Preta Restaurant in the 200 block of
 10 Wyoming Avenue. The second week will be
 11 running around the Run Around Scranton race
 12 in July and July 20th tentatively scheduled
 13 to leave and finish at Bar Pazzo in the 100
 14 block of North Washington Avenue. And of
 15 course, the final leg will be the second
 16 annual Bob McGoff Memorial 5K on Sunday
 17 August 27th 9 a.m. Prize money of \$200 each
 18 will be given to the top male and female
 19 runners over those three races. The two
 20 second place finishers each will receive a
 21 \$50 gift card from the Scranton Running
 22 Company. The winners will receive their
 23 prizes and awards immediately after the Bob
 24 McGoff Memorial 5K. We all felt this was an
 25 appropriate way for this city council and

1 other future city council's to continue to
 2 honor our colleague and friend, Bob McGoff.
 3 Also, I'd like to personally thank Dunmore
 4 Borough Council for again stepping up and
 5 asking the Attorney General to review the
 6 SSA sale and joining Scranton City Council
 7 on the quest for information on the
 8 transaction. As much as I am encouraged by
 9 the solidarity shared by Scranton and
 10 Dunmore Councils on this issue, I am equally
 11 disturbed that the Mayor of Scranton has yet
 12 to see the light of transparency and has not
 13 yet joined in on this effort. Another issue
 14 on the newspaper, I was disappointed to read
 15 that the house known as the Castle in
 16 Greenridge took another step towards
 17 demolition. It is my personal feeling that
 18 we should continue to do everything we can
 19 to avoid that end result. I would prefer
 20 that those resources that would have been
 21 used for demolition of that house--and I
 22 believe, they would be substantial, because
 23 it's a large house well built, could be used
 24 for other demolitions of properties in the
 25 city that have been around for much, much

1 longer and on the list for much longer than
 2 that one. And I'll touch on the
 3 reassessment as well. Councilman Rogan did
 4 an excellent job explaining the housing side
 5 of it. And I don't want to comment so much
 6 on the comments that were made. Because if
 7 I did, it would take the rest of the night
 8 to correct some of the things that were
 9 said. So I'll take that on for another
 10 time. But I will simply say that if you
 11 want true tax fairness, if you want true tax
 12 equity, there's only one way to achieve that
 13 and that's through a complete county wide
 14 reassessment. If you want to unleash the
 15 economic growth in the City of Scranton and
 16 maybe throughout the county, you will only
 17 do that through a county wide reassessment.
 18 And another point that I feel is important
 19 that wasn't part of any article, property
 20 tax reform also known as SB76 and
 21 reassessment both can be achieved and are
 22 not mutually exclusive of each other. In
 23 fact, together they would be a powerful
 24 remedy for property owners everywhere. And
 25 finally, I am again asking for all the

1 borough councils, township supervisors,
 2 school district board members throughout
 3 Lackawanna County to join the Scranton City
 4 Council and the Jermyn Borough Council in
 5 urging the Lackawanna County Commissioners
 6 to finally get off the sidelines and endorse
 7 the first county wide reassessment in nearly
 8 50 years. That's all I have for tonight.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
 10 Mr. Gaughan?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Ms.
 12 Davitt was here last week from North
 13 Scranton with concerns about speeding on
 14 Rockwell Avenue and Gilbert Street and we
 15 have forwarded her concerns and requests for
 16 additional signage to the DPW and to the
 17 police department. So I'll update everyone
 18 when we get information on that. A resident
 19 did reach out to our office about M80's
 20 being exploded in West Scranton near
 21 Walgreen's over several evenings. Our
 22 office did reach out and forwarded that
 23 concern to the Chief of Police that will
 24 hopefully handle that issue. I agree with
 25 Mr. Evans on the Castle house demolition in

1 Greenridge. I think that the city should do
 2 everything it can and first try to put that
 3 in the hands of someone who will fix it up
 4 and live there rather than demolish it and
 5 let another vacant lot sit either empty for
 6 a number of years. I would also like to
 7 make a request that the city administration
 8 put the condemnation and demolition list on
 9 the city's website and update that list
 10 monthly. I took a look at some other cities
 11 in Pennsylvania and across the country and
 12 they do this on a regular basis. I think it
 13 would be helpful not only to city council,
 14 but to the residents to be able to look at
 15 that information and it would become a much
 16 more transparent process. So I would ask if
 17 we can make that request this week. Last
 18 week, I mentioned asking Former Executive
 19 Director Gene Barrett to come into a council
 20 meeting. And I do think that we need Mr.
 21 Barrett to come in and answer questions
 22 asking if the proper oversight was provided
 23 in relation to the approval of legal bills
 24 and other expenditures in relation to the
 25 sale of the Scranton Sewer Authority to

1 Pennsylvania American Water. I'd like to
 2 know his thought process behind why he
 3 approved these bills. Some of them without
 4 backup. What lawyers got hired. When they
 5 got hired. Was a search done to get the
 6 lowest rates or bids? Who hired the special
 7 counsel to the city, Ned Abrahamsen? Mr.
 8 Barrett can also shed some light of who
 9 recommended the hiring of Buchanan,
 10 Ingersoll and Rooney to the board since that
 11 was not bid out. So I'd like to know how
 12 they were chosen, who brought their name to
 13 the sewer authority board. So I would like
 14 to make a motion at this time that Scranton
 15 City Council invite former Executive
 16 Director Gene Barrett to a public caucus to
 17 discuss how legal bills were paid, how law
 18 firms and consultants were hired during the
 19 Scranton Sewer Authority sale to
 20 Pennsylvania American Water.

21 MR. EVANS: I'll second that.

22 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on
 23 the floor and a second. On the question?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
 25 just to add to that, I'd like everybody to

1 remember that Mr. Barrett was the executive
 2 director for a number of years. This body
 3 votes to appoint the members of the Scranton
 4 Sewer Authority Board. Those members of the
 5 Scranton Sewer Authority Board appoint the
 6 executive director. So I think it is within
 7 our right to ask Mr. Barrett to come in and
 8 answer these questions.

9 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question, I
 10 have no issue with asking Mr. Barrett in.
 11 Any information, any light that he could
 12 shed on it would be first hand. And I think
 13 would be valuable if he does decide to come
 14 in.

15 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor
 16 signify by saying aye?

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
 22 ayes have it. So moved.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: And that's all I have
 24 until agenda items. Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.

1 Gaughan. Just a few items. Last week we
 2 heard from residents from the 1400 and 1500
 3 block of South Irving Avenue. This evening,
 4 we are going to try to find a remedy for
 5 that solution. As we spoke about, the list
 6 that's provided to us is a tentative paving
 7 list. And as such, there's going to be
 8 engineering done to determine the cost for
 9 those streets that had been listed. So,
 10 it's our goal as a council to include
 11 Irving, those two blocks of Irving Avenue to
 12 be reviewed for engineering purposes. From
 13 listening to the description of the problems
 14 there, it doesn't sound like that road
 15 really falls into the classification of
 16 these other streets that we're looking at in
 17 terms of paving which really need to be
 18 looked at more or less than just a mill and
 19 a pave. So what we'd like to do is include
 20 an engineering study for the 1400 and 1500
 21 block of Irving Ave to determine the true
 22 cost of what it would be to do a permanent
 23 fix of that road. I don't believe a patch
 24 job there or a quick mill and patch job is
 25 suitable for what's been described to us in

1 terms of my visit there and also seen
 2 pictures as provided by the residents. So
 3 this is our attempt to see if we can get
 4 some relief down the road for those
 5 residents. One of the items, tonight we
 6 heard about some problems up on Seymour
 7 Avenue. I was at Conroy and Snook Street
 8 this week. Same time of problem exists
 9 there. There actually was an accident there
 10 this week where somebody hit the open hole
 11 resulting in some serious damage to the car.
 12 I know it's not a solution, but I do think
 13 we should have some temporary warning
 14 stickers there. I did send some information
 15 to DPW on my own this week. And I'll follow
 16 up with this reading when Mr. Gallagher is
 17 back in the office next week. We've also
 18 been communicating with the city business
 19 administrator in terms of getting an RFP out
 20 for engineering work on Stafford and Meadow
 21 Brook Creek. Mr. Bulzoni has gotten that
 22 RFP to the purchasing office here for it to
 23 be issued. There was some comments this
 24 week about temporary repairs. So this
 25 study, this request actually is going to be

1 for the entire Meadow Brook area which also
 2 stretches into Dunmore. The request is that
 3 the--that entire area be looked at for
 4 temporary repairs for anyone that may have
 5 problems right now in that area. That would
 6 include the Youngs and the Kennedys
 7 properties. The RFP is intended to be able
 8 to be used for matching grants that we are
 9 required to do when the state comes in to do
 10 the overall repair on that project. And
 11 hopefully, we can get the study done so we
 12 can get repairs done on the Young's
 13 property, the Kennedy's property and also
 14 anyone else who has problems along that
 15 line. The goal is to get some temporary
 16 repairs there. It's a dangerous situation.
 17 And this is our attempt at the best way to
 18 go to try and get some relief there for
 19 those residents. Last evening, I attended a
 20 re-dedication of the Colonel Frank Duffy
 21 statue over at Steamtown Historic Site.
 22 The members of the veterans group,
 23 Rabiega-Gorgol Post, still owns the statue.
 24 They are quite proud of that statue. And
 25 right now, it's going to be on display at

1 Steamtown through 2018. Colonel Duffy was
 2 an amazing man from the stories that we
 3 hear. He actually worked for the D&LW
 4 railroad. So he actually, for the first
 5 time since April 1918, Colonel Duffy is home
 6 in an area where he walked everyday until he
 7 went over to France and was killed in war.
 8 So I'm very proud of the work that I have
 9 done with the VFW and also the work that the
 10 VFW has done themselves maintaining their
 11 interest in that statute and making sure
 12 that it was taken care of in such a manner
 13 that will be there for another 100 years for
 14 people to enjoy and I congratulate them on
 15 all their efforts. That's all I have at
 16 this time.
 17 MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
 18 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
 19 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
 20 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KUHARCHIK
 21 CONSTRUCTION FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON
 22 TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT AT NORTH MAIN
 23 AVENUE AND PARKER STREET.
 24 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
 25 entertain a motion that Item 5B be

1 introduced into its proper committee.
 2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.
 3 MR. EVANS: Second.
 4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
 5 those in favor of introduction, signify by
 6 saying aye?
 7 MR. PERRY: Aye.
 8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 9 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
 12 ayes have it. So moved.
 13 MS. REED: 5C. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
 14 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
 15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
 16 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WITMER PUBLIC
 17 SAFETY GROUP, INC. D/B/A OFFICER STORE FOR
 18 2017 AMMUNITION FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON
 19 POLICE DEPARTMENT.
 20 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
 21 entertain a motion that Item 5C be
 22 introduced into its proper committee.
 23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.
 24 MR. EVANS: Second.
 25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All

1 those in favor of introduction, signify by
 2 saying aye?
 3 MR. PERRY: Aye.
 4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 5 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
 8 ayes have it. So moved.
 9 MS. REED: 5D. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
 10 RESOLUTION – APPOINTMENT OF GOPAL B. PATEL,
 11 939 QUINCY AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA 18510 AS A
 12 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER
 13 AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE JUNE 7, 2017. MR. PATEL
 14 WILL BE REPLACING PATRICK J. HUGHES WHO
 15 RESIGNED MAY 15, 2017. MR. PATEL WILL FILL
 16 THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF PATRICK J. HUGHES,
 17 WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON JANUARY
 18 4, 2022.
 19 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
 20 entertain a motion that Item 5B be
 21 introduced into its proper committee.
 22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.
 23 MR. EVANS: Second.
 24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
 25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

1 I'm going to make a motion in a second that
 2 we invite Mr. Patel into a public caucus.
 3 And I realize that this is an unusual
 4 request and probably an unusual motion to
 5 make. But in light of the serious matters
 6 that have recently taken place, the lack of
 7 transparency, the stone-walling that's gone
 8 on for the past six and a half months, I
 9 think that every single appointment to this
 10 board is of the utmost importance. I think
 11 it's extremely important that this
 12 legislative body find out what Mr. Patel's
 13 views are on the Scranton Sewer Authority,
 14 what he believes his responsibilities are as
 15 a board member, is he in favor of having the
 16 Auditor General come in to audit the
 17 Scranton Sewer Authority transaction? Would
 18 he be in favor of the Attorney General
 19 coming in as Scranton and Dunmore Councils
 20 have requested? We need to make sure that
 21 this appointee to the Scranton Sewer
 22 Authority Board is going to be an advocate
 23 for the people, the ratepayers of Scranton
 24 and Dunmore and not for Mayor Courtright.
 25 Remember--and this is what causes my

1 concern, the Mayor actually at one point
 2 said that he thought the board members of
 3 the Scranton Sewer Authority Board were like
 4 members of his cabinet. He wanted them to
 5 share his vision. It causes me concern
 6 because the Scranton Sewer Authority Board
 7 should be independent and autonomous and
 8 totally separate from our local government.
 9 We need to make sure that Mr. Patel shares
 10 the vision of independence for the rate
 11 payers of the City of Scranton and Dunmore.
 12 Mr. Patel's letter of interest is a little
 13 light on details. I think we should
 14 investigate this further. And I do think
 15 that we should ask him to come to a caucus
 16 and answer questions. So at this time, I
 17 would like to make a motion that Scranton
 18 City Council invite Mr. Patel into a public
 19 caucus to find out what his views are on
 20 Scranton Sewer Authority.

21 MR. WECHSLER: The motion dies for
 22 lack of a second. All those in favor of
 23 introduction signify by saying aye?

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

4 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it. So
 5 moved.

6 MS. REED: 5E. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
 7 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
 8 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
 9 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
 10 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE
 11 CITY OF SCRANTON CLERICAL WORKERS AND LOCAL
 12 LODGE NO. 2462 AFFILIATED WITH DISTRICT 1 OF
 13 THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS
 14 AND AEROSPACE WORKERS, AFL-CIO IN ACCORDANCE
 15 WITH THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF A
 16 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AN
 17 EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2016 AND
 18 RATIFIED BY THE MEMBERSHIP.

19 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
 20 entertain a motion that Item 5B be
 21 introduced into its proper committee.

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,

1 I'm still reviewing this memorandum of
 2 understanding and the contract. But I do
 3 think in light of the city possibly exiting
 4 Act 47 in three years and us getting the
 5 exit plan from PEL recently, that we need to
 6 make sure that we do our due diligence and
 7 make sure this contract is in the best
 8 interest of the taxpayers and the city. So,
 9 I would like to request a few items. I did
 10 so in the caucus before the meeting tonight.
 11 I do believe and my colleagues agree that we
 12 should ask the Mayor and administration
 13 officials to come into a caucus and explain
 14 this memorandum of understanding to City
 15 Council, how it fits within the three year
 16 exit plan, how it benefits the city. And
 17 again, I think it's important and especially
 18 in light of the city's financially
 19 distressed status. I'd also like to request
 20 that had our recovery coordinator, the
 21 Pennsylvania Economy League give us a
 22 written response or attend the public caucus
 23 and give the opinion on whether or not this
 24 memorandum of understanding fits within a 3
 25 year exit plan and the work force cost

1 containment provisions included in it. I'd
 2 also like a cost benefit analysis from the
 3 business administrator. The retiree health
 4 care language is a little confusing. So I
 5 think we need clarification on this. I'd
 6 like to know how much this will cost the
 7 city, if anything. And is this in line with
 8 our three year exit plan and the work force
 9 cost containment provisions. Concerning the
 10 areas of job descriptions, it states that
 11 modifications made during contract
 12 negotiations. I'd like to get an opinion on
 13 what these modifications were? It's
 14 extremely difficult to have any opinion on
 15 this without seeing each and every job
 16 description as it applies to the needs of
 17 city services. Concerning the pension
 18 language in here on the surface, this option
 19 is being presented for employees being
 20 available to transfer into another pension
 21 seems to place an additional burden on the
 22 city if multiple individuals made the
 23 transfer. It's not clearly defined what the
 24 burden would be on the city. It mentions an
 25 additional annual contribution of

1 \$10,000--roughly \$11,000. I'd like to know
 2 exact total or is that per employee. And
 3 again, I need more clarification on this and
 4 more explanation. Concerning the retirement
 5 severance, I'd like to see a value set to
 6 this based on a potential number of
 7 employees who are potentially going to
 8 retire over the next four years. Section 6
 9 regarding certifications; it says, the city
 10 must provide existing housing inspectors
 11 with materials, study guides and information
 12 about the location, timing and details of
 13 the certification test within 90 days of
 14 ratification of this contract. I'd like
 15 more information on that. Where do the
 16 tests take place? How much do the tests
 17 cost? Materials, study guides and other
 18 things like that. So I would like to get
 19 more information on how that process works.
 20 That's all I have. Thank you.

21 MR. ROGAN: I also agree with some
 22 of what Councilman Gaughan mentioned,
 23 looking for additional information. I do
 24 want to mention, on the face of this, this
 25 looks to be a very good contract for the

1 taxpayers, particularly on the salary side.
 2 For 2016, there will be no pay increase for
 3 clerical workers. 2017, no pay increase.
 4 2018, there will be a \$750 bonus. 2019 to
 5 2020, a 2.5 percent pay increase. So on the
 6 salary side, you can see these are very,
 7 very, very small pay increases. And
 8 actually, '16 and '17, there's no increase
 9 whatsoever. I also do like that the pension
 10 contributions for the members will increase.
 11 It's not a very large increase, but there is
 12 an increase of the members into their
 13 pension. So actually, for years one and
 14 two, these employees will actually be making
 15 less money than they're making currently
 16 because of the increased pension
 17 contribution combined with no pay increase
 18 for two years. That being said, there are a
 19 number of other items in here I do have some
 20 questions on that I wanted to investigate a
 21 little bit further. But on the face of it,
 22 it does look like it's a very fair contract.
 23 And it should be a basis for starts of
 24 conversations with the DPW for no pay
 25 increases for the first few years of the

1 contract. As you know, I have a number of
 2 other issues with that department. But as
 3 far as this, it does look good on the
 4 surface. But we'll be doing some more
 5 investigation.

6 MR. EVANS: On the question, yeah, I
 7 think we established the protocol of having
 8 the administration come before us to explain
 9 the MLU with the Police and Fire Department
 10 contracts. And also, it involves the last
 11 PEL in the past and make sure it's
 12 consistent with the recovery plan. There
 13 are some good things in here I like. And
 14 there's also things in here that are missing
 15 that I want to ask about because I think
 16 they're very, very important, especially on
 17 the pension side of it. So I think some
 18 sort of public caucus can be very, very
 19 helpful for everyone.

20 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
 21 introduction signify by saying aye?

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
 2 ayes have it. So moved.
 3 MS. REED: 5F. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
 4 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
 5 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
 6 ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND
 7 BETWEEN MEDTRAK SERVICES, LLC, A MISSOURI
 8 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (“MEDTRAK”) AND
 9 THE CITY OF SCRANTON (“CLIENT”) TO PROVIDE
 10 PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.
 11 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
 12 entertain a motion that Item 5F be
 13 introduced into its proper committee.
 14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.
 15 MR. EVANS: Second.
 16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
 17 those in favor of introduction signify by
 18 saying aye?
 19 MR. PERRY: Aye.
 20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 21 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 23 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
 24 ayes have it. So moved.
 25 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6A.

1 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
 2 104, 2017 – AN ORDINANCE – AUTHORIZING THE
 3 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
 4 TO ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
 5 THIS QUITCLAIM DEED CONVEYING TITLE TO THE
 6 CITY OF SCRANTON, THE FORMER CSM SAMUEL P.
 7 SERRENTI U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER (USARC)
 8 LOCATED AT 1801 PINE STREET, SCRANTON,
 9 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA 18510 AS
 10 MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A” ATTACHED
 11 HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.
 12 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
 13 by title of Item 6A. What is your pleasure?
 14 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6A pass
 15 reading by title.
 16 MR. EVANS: Second.
 17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
 18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
 19 I appreciate Chief Graziano providing the
 20 environmental information. I still will be
 21 voting no against this for the reasons that
 22 I stated last week. The cost analysis to
 23 determine the impact on future operating and
 24 capital budgets has not been done. And
 25 according to the business administrator,

1 will not be done. And I can't get over that
 2 concern. Because I do not think that at
 3 this time we should be adding additional
 4 unknown maintenance costs to our budget.
 5 Thank you.
 6 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor
 7 signify by saying aye?
 8 MR. PERRY: Aye.
 9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 10 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?
 12 MR. GAUGHAN: No.
 13 MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it. So
 14 moved.
 15 MS. REED: 6B. READING BY TITLE –
 16 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 105, 2017 - AN
 17 ORDINANCE – AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
 18 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON CHAPTER 439 VEHICLES
 19 AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE VI: RESIDENTIAL PARKING
 20 PERMIT PROGRAM, BY MAKING CHANGES AND
 21 ADDITIONS TO SECTIONS 439-68. PERMIT
 22 APPLICATION, SECTION 439-69. RESPONSIBILITY
 23 OF PERMIT HOLDER, SECTION 439-70. DUTIES OF
 24 THE ADMINISTRATOR, FEE, AND SECTION 439-71.
 25 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES, IN ORDER TO BRING

1 THE CODE UP TO DATE.
 2 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard the
 3 reading by title of Item 6B. What is your
 4 pleasure?
 5 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6B pass
 6 reading by title.
 7 MR. EVANS: Second.
 8 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
 9 those in favor signify by saying aye?
 10 MR. PERRY: Aye.
 11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 12 MR. EVANS: Aye.
 13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
 14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
 15 ayes have it. So moved.
 16 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7A. FOR
 17 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
 18 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION – FILE OF THE COUNCIL
 19 NO. 103, 2017 - AUTHORIZING ONE (1) R6-IL
 20 HORIZONTAL LEFT ONE-WAY SIGN AND ONE (1)
 21 R6-IR HORIZONTAL RIGHT ONE-WAY SIGN BE
 22 INSTALLED BACK TO BACK AT THE EASTERLY
 23 CORNER OF VINE STREET AND MONROE AVENUE AND
 24 THE EXISTING DO NOT ENTER SIGN AT THE
 25 WESTERLY CORNER OF MONROE AVENUE AND VINE

1 STREET BE PLUMBED TO A VERTICAL POSITION.

2 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
3 recommendation of the chairperson on the
4 Committee on Public Works?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: As chairperson for the
6 commit on public works, I recommend final
7 passage of Item 7A.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
10 Roll call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry?

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

21 declare Item 7A legally and lawfully
22 adopted.

23 MS. REED: 7B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
24 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES – FOR ADOPTION -
25 RESOLUTION NO. 165, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE

1 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
2 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY
3 AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
4 PENNSYLVANIA ("SCRANTON") AND SMART CITY
5 MEDIA, LLC OF 54 WEST 40TH ST., NEW YORK,
6 NEW YORK 10018 ("SCM") BY USING ITS
7 PROPRIETARY SMART MEDIA PLATFORM TO DELIVER
8 HELPFUL LOCATION-BASED INFORMATION.

9 MR. WECHSLER: As chairperson for
10 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
11 passage of Item 7B.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

14 Roll call, please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry?

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

25 declare Item 7B legally and lawfully

1 adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
3 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS – FOR ADOPTION
4 - RESOLUTION NO. 166, 2017 – AUTHORIZING THE
5 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
6 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH
7 REUTHER+BOWEN, PC TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING
8 SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON 2017
9 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to make a
11 motion to amend Item 7C per the following:
12 Amend the tentative 2017 city paving list by
13 adding an additional section entitled South
14 Scranton 1400 and 1500 blocks of South
15 Irving Avenue which will then make it a
16 total of 25 streets on the list.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on
19 the floor and a second. On the question?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. On the question,
21 I'm very pleased to be able to make this
22 motion tonight. The residents of this area
23 who attended the meeting last week expressed
24 and have been expressing great concern about
25 the condition of these two blocks. I think

1 it's not only a public works issue. I think
2 it's a public safety issue. I have been up
3 in that area several times. And nobody
4 should have to live like that. There
5 basically is no road left. So I think that
6 this is a start to find out how much it
7 would cost to pave it and hopefully get
8 these two blocks on a paving list as soon as
9 possible. Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, I think the
11 important thing is is that we find out the
12 cost to do the proper repair of these two
13 blocks. The serious condition that they're
14 in requires something more than what we're
15 looking at under our paving program. So, we
16 will take a look at this and make a
17 commitment to get it completed. All those
18 in favor signify by saying aye?

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
24 ayes have it. So moved. What is the
25 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Public Works?
 2 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
 3 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
 4 passage of Item 7C as amended.
 5 MR. ROGAN: Second.
 6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
 7 Roll call, please?
 8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry?
 9 MR. PERRY: Yes.
 10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?
 11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.
 12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?
 13 MR. EVANS: Yes.
 14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?
 15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
 16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?
 17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
 18 declare Item 7C as amended legally and
 19 lawfully adopted. If there's no further
 20 business, I'll entertain a motion to
 21 adjourn.
 22 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.
 23 MR. WECHSLER: Adjourned.
 24 (Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.)
 25

1 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 2 COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA
 3
 4 I, Elizabeth V Kedrick, Notary Public, in and for
 5 the County of Wayne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do
 6 hereby certify:
 7
 8 That said testimony was taken down by me and
 9 thereafter transcribed into typewriting, and I hereby
 10 certify the foregoing testimony is a full, true and
 11 correct transcription of my shorthand notes so taken.
 12
 13 I further certify that I am neither counsel for
 14 nor related to any party to said action, nor in anyway
 15 interested in the outcome thereof.
 16
 17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my
 18 name and affixed my seal this _____ day of
 19 _____, 2017.
 20
 21 -----
 22 Elizabeth V Kedrick,
 23 Notary Public,
 24 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
 25 Honesdale Borough, Wayne County
 My commission expires 11/14/19
 (The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not
 apply to any reproduction of the same by any means
 unless under the direct control and/or supervision of
 the certifying reporter.)
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